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WHAT IS "STATE REGULATION OF VICE"?

*(Being a Reprint, with Alterations
and Additions, of a Pamphlet published
in 1896 under the title, "The Crowning
—— Crime of Christendom.") ——*

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WHAT IS “STATE REGULATION OF VICE”?

THE system known as “State Regulation of Vice” makes the attempt, as unscientific as it is immoral, to secure the health of men of unclean lives by a surgical outrage upon the women who are their partners in sin, and upon any other women whom the officials who work the system choose to suspect of immorality.

The system was introduced very largely throughout Europe in the wake of the armies of the first Napoleon, who left it behind him in the form of municipal regulations and military rules. Nearly every country in Europe was blighted by its presence in a greater or less degree by the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The introduction of the system into England was contemplated in the reign of William IV., but the unexpected death of that monarch cut short the designs of the promoters of the system, who did not dare to bring the matter before the young Queen Victoria. The hostility of the Prince Consort postponed their schemes for a further period of years, and it was not until 1864, when Queen Victoria was still prostrate under the loss of her husband, that the first Contagious Diseases Act was smuggled through Parliament. The powers under this Act were found inadequate to the designs of the promoters, and it was therefore expanded into a second and more stringent and extensive Act passed in 1866, which was again supplemented by a third in 1869. The Parliamentary proceedings with regard to all these Acts were carried through in the most secret manner possible, and their very existence was unknown to the great majority of the members of the House of Commons (including at least one member of the Government), and to the public.

The 1866 and 1869 Acts enacted amongst other things that any woman refusing to undergo the aforesaid surgical examination should be imprisoned, for a first refusal for one month with hard labour, and for a second refusal for three months with hard labour! In cases of actions under the

common law by respectable women for shameful outrage under these Acts, the last clause of the 1869 Act provided that the woman should lose her case if the official had offered her money, sufficient in the estimation of the magistrate, to hush the matter up!

From England, Acts drafted on similar lines were sent out to the Crown Colonies and introduced "by order" there, and surreptitiously introduced and passed in most of the self-governing Colonies. In India the system was introduced into seventy military centres by means of a "Cantonment Act" in 1864, and by a Contagious Diseases Act into Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay in 1868. It should be noted that England was the first, and, including her Colonies, the only nation in Christendom that, till then, dared to put these Acts on the Statute Book. As already stated, in all other countries the system was worked by means of municipal regulations and military rules.

After a long struggle the English Acts were suspended in 1883, and finally repealed in 1886. The Acts of the various Legislative Councils in the Crown Colonies were shortly after repealed, in like manner as they had been passed, by Administrative order from England. The system is still on the Statute Books in several of the self-governing Colonies, and a great work still remains to be done on the Continent.

Before Repeal was reached in England, on every occasion when victory seemed imminent for the side of righteousness, the promoters of the system attempted to replace the Acts by specious pretended compromises, containing in every case veiled provisions for the indescribable surgical outrage. Precisely the same tactics are now being pursued by supporters of the system in every part of the world, and this pamphlet is issued to encourage workers everywhere to stand for the absolute abolition of all rules, regulations, or laws which enjoin, authorize, or permit this enforced examination under any pretext whatever upon any woman.

State Regulation exists in 1911 in the island of Guernsey, at Gibraltar, Malta, in a number of military centres in India, at the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, in a number of military centres at the Cape, in Queensland, and New South Wales; also in most of the countries of Europe, in Japan, and throughout South and Central America.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WORKING OF THE SYSTEM.

[The remainder of this pamphlet is taken up with extracts from the various periodicals connected with the movement for the abolition of the system, and from newspapers of the time, to illustrate what that system really is.]

IMPRISONMENT OF WOMEN.

Large numbers of women were sent to prison in England for refusing to undergo the surgical examination enforced under the Acts. Many of these were poor women of good character. The first number of the *Abolitionist Shield* records, under date of March 7th, 1870,* the imprisonment of Elizabeth Holt in Maidstone gaol for this reason. "It is harrowing to think," says the editor, "that this poor girl upon coming out of gaol will be again confronted with the same ordeal, and that she must either endure it ultimately, or pass the rest of her life in prison." In illustration of this, see the cases of Elizabeth Chapman and Ann Murrell, mentioned further on. Two brave girls each went to gaol five successive times, before the medical men, magistrates, and police who worked the Acts would stop pursuing them.

ALL LIBERTY REPEALED.

In the second number of the same paper a correspondent from Dover writes: "The working of the Act here simply repeals all liberty, and bears with a tyranny and cruelty towards women beyond anything ever before known in this country, both toward married and single women alike. A married woman came to my house on Monday in great distress, and asked my advice what to do, as the spies had frequently been to her house, and this morning stated that if she did not appear to undergo the brutal examination she must go before the magistrates. She said to go before the public would be her ruin. Her husband would forsake her, her friends would do the same, and her daughter would have no home. I told her there was no remedy but to submit or go before the magistrates, and advised the latter."†

* *The Shield*, Vol. I., p. 4.

† *The Shield*, Vol. I., p. 16.

SOME MORE FACTS.

The same periodical in its issue for March 21st, 1870, has the following :—

“ Dr. Barr, of Aldershot, one of the officers employed under the Act, was questioned respecting the women he had to examine, and he replied that they were dressmakers, married women, and domestic servants.”

A lady writes from Maidstone : “ Mrs. ——— went with our petition against the Contagious Diseases Acts to the women as they came out from the doctor’s rooms, and many signed it, while others put their cross to her writing for them. She said most of them came out crying.”

A SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLAR.

In the fourth number of the *Shield* (March 28th, 1870), an old Sunday school scholar writes from Canterbury to her former teacher as follows : “ I suppose you have heard of this Contagious Diseases Act. It is too shocking to write about. I am afraid to go out in the evening now. There were eighty girls examined the other week here. It is quite dreadful. They are actually taking up respectable people, and if they don’t go, they have to be thrust into prison. Two shop girls have just been thrust into prison because they would not let the Inspector examine them.”

THE FIRST SUICIDE RECORDED UNDER THE SYSTEM.

The first suicide recorded under the system is in a quotation in the same number from the *Calcutta Indian Mirror* of February 4th, 1870, which tells of the self-destruction of a young woman in that city rather than undergo the examination.

A RESPECTABLE MILLINER.

The *Shield*, under date April 4th, 1870, gives an extract from a letter from a respectable milliner who had recently left Plymouth to reside in another town because “ there is no safety now in Plymouth for decent women who are obliged to be out on evening errands.” She says : “ Instances occur in Plymouth of young girls hiding from the police. I have seen some of these poor souls run, and fall down in the street from mere fright and horror, and the police

call a cab and lift them into it ; and I know of girls taken away from shops, little thinking where they were going to."

The same issue gives an account of the prosecution of two women at Dover for refusing to be surgically examined. The magistrate, in sentencing them to seven days' imprisonment, said : " If you come here again " (*i.e.*, if you refuse to be examined after imprisonment) " you must not suppose you will get off so lightly." It is then stated that " The women left the box, and were taken to the cells weeping bitterly."

THE INFAMY PERPETRATED UNDER THE ACTS NOT TO BE COMPARED TO RESPECTABLE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Page 51 of the *Shield* for April 18th, 1870, has a letter from a lady at Aldershot, one of the subjected districts, who says:—

" I have much to do with the sick, and have walked an hospital as a dresser, and have also, for some weeks, had the *entrée* of a Lock Hospital, by way of improving myself in practice. . . . To compare these examinations " (enforced under the Acts) " with the work of an *accoucheur* is absurd. . . . The moral degradation to the patient is awful, and I should say the process must be very bad for the morality of the students."

NINETEENTH CENTURY TORTURE CHAMBERS.

In the next number of this periodical* Mrs. Josephine E. Butler writes a description of interviews by her with large numbers of young women under the Acts in the Kent district, and says : " In many cases the physical suffering inflicted is so great that it is not surprising that they should decline to be so tortured again and again. For a week after the first ordeal some have not been able to sleep for pain. Many told me of the difficulty they had in walking afterwards, and of the night spent after this, crying in sleepless pain. . . . When I saw women in bed suffering, weeping, the whole nervous system shaken by this outrage ; when I saw actual evidence of the pain and torture inflicted, I asked myself ' Is any State on earth justified in inflicting bodily torture on frail, helpless, often friendless girls for any crime that can be mentioned ? ' "

* Page 63, *The Shield*, April 25th, 1870.

THE WIFE OF A RESPECTABLE WORKING MAN.

In the same article Mrs. Butler gives details of the case of the wife of a respectable working man, as follows :—

“ Mrs. K., wife of John K., was summoned to appear. She had not been long out of the general hospital, where she had undergone an operation. She was not strong yet ; had no idea what they desired of her at Hawkes Lane. She was one of the seven sent away (to the prison-hospital). She begged very hard to go and see her husband before leaving, but was not allowed. She opened the window and would have jumped out, but several held her back. The Inspector opening the door, she rushed to it and tried to make her escape, but he prevented. She struck him, and he threatened to send her to prison. Presently, looking through the window, she saw her husband in the street, and called to him that she was detained. He started off to Mr. K., her doctor, hoping by *his* orders to get her released ; but he could not. The poor husband took his wife some tea, and walked up and down outside, weeping very much indeed. After a time she was discharged from hospital, and they two have left the city together, he giving up his work to go with her.”

A MOTHER WITH HER CHILD DYING OF CROUP.

Amongst the papers of the late Frederic Wheeler, for many years Chairman of the Committee of the Friends' Association, is the account of a case sent to him by a correspondent in Paris, where a respectable young working woman went out in the evening to fetch a doctor for her child suddenly taken ill with the croup. The “ morals police,” as they are hypocritically called in France, chose to “ suspect ” her of being a prostitute, and arrested her. She explained matters to them, and told them that her child was dying of croup. They jeered at her, and insisted on taking her to the examination house. The combination of appalling circumstances very naturally sent her into hysterics. The police then charged her with being “ a drunk and disorderly prostitute,” and she was sentenced to a month's imprisonment. Her baby died, of course, in her absence, and she returned home childless and “ a registered prostitute.”

EQUALLY CRUEL CASES IN ENGLAND.

The issue of the *Shield* for May 2nd, 1870 (p. 67) gives

accounts of some terrible cases of oppression under the Acts at Canterbury. One of these is as follows :—

“ The second case is that of Sarah Waters. She is a young girl. She is pregnant. She has been examined thrice. The instrumental violation of her person has caused her on each occasion great pain and copious flooding. The spy has gone to her house, into her bedroom, when she has been ill and retching, and has told her he would summon her if she did not submit. He has summoned her.” She was sentenced to seven days’ imprisonment for refusing to be examined again !

ANOTHER YOUNG MOTHER.

A fortnight afterwards the same periodic l* reports the following :—

“ A young mother, named Anne Baker, aged 20, was summoned at Maidstone for refusing to undergo the surgical outrage under the Acts. Before the case came on, a friendly enquirer asked why she objected to the examination, and she said that from the account that she had received from other women of the process of examination, she would rather undergo any amount of imprisonment, or even death, than submit herself. She knew of three women who had been injured for life by the process. Only that morning a young woman (mentioning her name) had gone to the infirmary through what she had suffered from examination, and there was no probability of her ever recovering.”

The reporter of the *Maidstone Telegraph* was prevented by the police from entering the Court when this case came on, as the magistrate elected to hear it with closed doors. He says : “ After a while a shriek was heard. Then the unfortunate girl was handed out, hysterically calling for her child, and crying bitterly.” The reporter learned that she had been sentenced to ten days’ imprisonment. She was shortly removed in custody.

The following number of the *Shield*† contains a letter from Mrs. Butler, who, speaking of visits paid by her to poor women under the Acts at Chatham, says : “ I found in more than one case, by papers signed by the doctor, up to a late period, that pregnancy does not exempt a woman from the periodical violation. Some of them wept bitterly at the

* *The Shield*, May 16th, 1870. † Page 90, Vol. I., *The Shield*.

memory of the pain endured, weeks before the birth of their child, from the instrumental violation."

Mrs. Heritage, a lady largely engaged in rescue work at Canterbury, one of the districts subjected to the Acts, the wife of a clergyman of that town, writes on page 178 of the first volume of the *Shield* as follows:—

"Anyone visiting these unhappy women and girls (under the Acts), will need no doctor's statement to prove the physical suffering and mental anguish, with severe pain for days, resulting from these instrumental examinations. . . . One day, after instrumental inspection, E. E. went bleeding to her home; and miscarriage was the result. . . . L. G. suffered great pain through the examination, and has not been well since the first time she submitted to the operation. . . . She died on the 12th instant, affirming that she was hurried to the grave by these inhuman examinations."

Page 159 of the first volume of the *Shield* quotes from Duchatelet, who, writing of the system in Paris, speaks of the convulsions and agonies of mind of some of the women even in the *prospect* of the surgical ordeal to be undergone.

The following number (page 167) gives a cutting from the *Times of India* showing "that Hindoo women regard the periodical outrage of their persons with the same horror that English and French women do."

MISCONCEPTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SYSTEM.

In reference to the central horror of the Contagious Diseases Acts, the same number of the *Shield* states that:—

"One gentleman, the representative of a large constituency, who said, when a deputation of his constituents waited upon him on the question that he was in favour of the Acts, for he had understood they had done good, but who exclaimed, when their operation was explained to him, 'Good heavens! Is *that* what is done to the women? That is horrible! I thought the doctor just saw the woman, asked her a few questions, and let her go. If *that* is what is done, the Acts must be repealed immediately.' "

Numbers of poor women were inveigled to sign a paper consenting to come up for examination through the same delusion as that by which this M.P. was possessed. They thought it was an ordinary medical visit, in which the doctor felt their

pulse, asked them one or two questions, and dismissed them. After they had found out what it actually was, numbers of them went to prison again and again, rather than undergo the wicked and shameful degradation a second time. Still larger numbers moved out of the districts where the Act was enforced.

Dr. Acton, the man who perhaps did more than any other medical man to get the Acts introduced into England, admits on page 257 of the Report of the Venereal Commission, that if it became known in England, "The outcry against the mode of carrying out the Act will be inconceivable."

Mrs. Butler, speaking at Portsmouth said: "The reason why men were not included in the Acts was because men would not stand it, if they were subjected to such treatment. There would very soon be a revolution in the country, and knives, daggers, and all sorts of weapons would be used if men were treated in this manner."

THE EFFECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE C.D. ACT INTO BOMBAY.

A Justice of the Peace of the City of Bombay writes in the *Shield* of August 8th, 1870, that "No sooner was the news of the introduction of the Act spread in the town of Bombay, than about three thousand poor souls at once left the city, and dispersed into the country, where they were starved, and died unknown and uncared for."

Corroborative evidence is given of this in the first report of the Government of India, on the working of the Act in Bombay, dated June 15th, 1871, which admits that "some thousands of women fled to Bassein, Tanna, and neighbouring places."

The system had already been introduced into other parts of India through the Cantonments Act of 1864, and it is interesting to note that the first number of the first periodical against the system* acknowledges a donation of £100 "From Officers of the Indian Service, who have seen the evils of the same system in India, and who, on Christian principles, feel it right to oppose the Contagious Diseases Act."

THE POLICE TYRANNIZE OVER THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE ACTS.

The *Shield* for August 8th, 1870, reports the case at Plymouth

* *The Shield*, March 7th, 1870.

in which Mr. Daniel Cooper, the revered secretary of the London Rescue Society, and Mrs. King, a lady of independent means engaged in rescue work, were fined £5 each for advising a poor young woman who was in the clutches of the Acts' police. The *Shield* for September 17th of the same year gives details of the attempt of a policeman to take Mr. Cooper into custody a second time.

Still later, in October of the same year,* a respectable man of the working class, named John Marshall, was sent to prison for one month for remonstrating with the Acts' police for the very harsh way in which they were treating a poor woman who was being dragged to the examination house. Many of her clothes were torn from her, and black bruises came on her arms from the rough grasp of the police.

On his release from prison Mr. Marshall was welcomed by an immense crowd at the prison gate, who heartily cheered his restoration to liberty, and one of the largest public halls of Plymouth was crowded the same evening by a welcome meeting in his honour.

SOME MORE CASES.

The *Shield* of August 15th, 1870 (p. 197) reports the case of a child of sixteen (whose mother and elder sister were ready to take their oaths that she was an innocent girl) who was forced to the examination by the Acts' police. When she returned her mother said: "She screamed with pain, so much was she hurt, and cried bitterly because she had been compelled to go."

On page 220 of the same volume is the case of Elizabeth Chapman, who had undergone fourteen days' imprisonment rather than be surgically examined under the Acts, and who was on her release arrested a second time by the police. On being brought into Court, says the *Greenwich and Deptford Chronicle* of September 10th, "a very painful scene occurred. The defendant, whose swollen and inflamed eye-lids showed that she had been weeping very much, fell in a fit into the arms of a policeman who was standing near her. She had to be borne into the yard, and for some minutes her cries were painfully heard in the Court House. On her recovering, she was again brought in," and rather than render herself

* *The Shield*, October 22nd, 1870

liable to a second and increased sentence of three months, she submitted.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

On page 222 of the same issue of the *Shield* it is mentioned that at Plymouth a girl attempted to poison herself, "mad with horror" at the thought of having to go up to the examination house. It was with difficulty that two doctors recovered her from the effects of the poison.

A BRAVE STAND.

The same periodical under date of December 3rd, 1870 (p. 312), reports the case of Ann Murrell, who was sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment for refusing to be examined. She told the magistrate that he might send her to prison for years and she would *never* be examined.

"THE BOMBAY GUARDIAN,"

which has played such a large part in recent years in moral reform in India, spoke out again and again against the Act when first introduced into Bombay. The saintly George Bowen, who was then the editor, and whose memory is still fragrant throughout the Indian Christian Church, protests against the system in the issue of September 3rd, 1870, in no measured terms. He says that up till that date, "according to the official statistics, 1,198 most unjustifiable acts of indecent outrage had already been perpetrated upon perfectly healthy women."

CHIVALROUS YOUNG MEN PUNISHED.

The *Shield* for Nov. 19th, 1870 (p. 301), reports the case of a respectable young man named William Brown, who was fined 20s. and costs 10s. 6d., for defending the young woman to whom he was engaged to be married from the assaults of a C. D. Act policeman.

A still worse case is that of a soldier, reported in the *Shield* for Jan. 14th, 1871 (p. 357), and illustrated by additional facts in the issue for August 10th, 1872 (p. 1036). This brave fellow had been fourteen years in India. On his return he was met by his sister, who had come from a distant part of the country, on purpose to meet him. As they were walking down the street together, two of the Acts' policemen followed them, and attempted to take the young woman, who was a

perfectly respectable girl and a stranger to the town, to the examination house. The brother, highly incensed, took off his belt and knocked down one of the policemen who had arrested his sister, disabling him in the process by unintentionally breaking his arm. The other policeman now devoting himself to taking the brother into custody, the sister escaped. In order to prevent a public exposure of the case, the Acts' authorities obtained the trial of the courageous brother by court-martial, contrary to the law in cases of assault on the police, which is that the prisoner be brought before the local magistrate. He was sentenced to a term of imprisonment with the excessively hard labour called "shot drill."

One wonders now-a-days however the military officers who formed the court-martial could be so shamefully debased as to sentence the courageous young brother under such circumstances, but the degrading effects of the system was as marked upon the officers of the Army as it was upon every other class of society which came within the range of its influence, as is shown by the action of the Army and Navy Club in 1881, who by 359 votes to 38 reinstated Col. Valentine Baker as a member, after he had been sentenced to a term of twelve months' imprisonment, in addition to a fine of £500, for a dastardly attempted outrage in a first-class railway-carriage upon a young lady of good position. They afforded him the additional privilege of remitting the repayment of his entrance fee on the score that, in the opinion of the members, his conduct "did not detract from his character as a gentleman!"*

A MOTHER "BOUND OVER TO KEEP THE PEACE" FOR
DEFENDING HER DAUGHTER.

The *Shield* of Sept. 23rd, 1871, reports a case at Southampton, where a C. D. Act policeman summoned a respectable working woman, on whose daughter he had attempted to serve an order to go to the examination house. The mother several times told the officer, who had forced himself into her house, to go, and on his continuing to refuse, took him by the arms, and pushed him out of the house. The mother was bound over to keep the peace for six months.

* *The Shield*, August 6th, 1881. Page 166.

MORE SUICIDES IN INDIA.

The *Shield* for March 4th, 1871 (p. 412), quotes from the *Bombay Guardian* the case of a poor woman at Golagunj, who drowned herself in a well rather than undergo the shameful examination, and later on (August 10th, 1872, page 1036) reports that a number of native women at Mysore had committed suicide rather than submit.

THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

As the movement against the system in England went forward, more and more light began to be poured also into the dark corners of the Continent of Europe upon the subject, finally resulting in the establishment of the British, Continental, and General Federation for its abolition. The following are amongst some of the facts that led to the formation of this International Association, or were brought to light by its early labours :—

ITALY—PESARO.

The *Shield* of June 17th, 1871, quotes from *L'Unita Italiana* a terrible case which occurred at Pesaro, where a respectable servant girl under sixteen years of age was dragged to the examination house in spite of the remonstrances of those who knew her perfect purity of character. The mother of the child was driven away with brutal gestures and foul words.

FLORENCE.

The *Shield* for March 15th, 1875 (p. 79), records the case of a peasant girl at Florence who had escaped from one of the Government houses of ill-fame and fled to her parents' cottage. She was followed by the police, who endeavour to "reclaim," that is, bring back to bondage, every girl who escapes. The parents barricaded their house; a struggle followed, and bloodshed.

BRESCIA.—A SUICIDE.

The *Shield* of April 1st, 1875 (p. 99), recounts another case of a respectable young woman at Brescia, in Italy, who was arrested by the police who worked the system. "She wept and implored to be spared the humiliation, declaring that she was virtuous and pure, and her old father and mother also protested and implored in vain. She was dragged to the

hospital and subjected to the examination. When brought before the doctor her manner was entirely changed ; she no longer implored or wept ; she was calm and decided. After the examination the doctor pronounced her a virgin. She waited until he made a declaration to this effect, and then without uttering a word went to the window and threw herself out. She was taken up dead."

MESSINA, SICILY.

The system, wherever it has been worked, has always been an instrument in the hands of wicked men, the wide world over, for all sorts of infamous purposes. Here is a sample case described in the *National League Journal* for May, 1876 :

"The son of a wealthy Sicilian had become attached to a young girl of humble family, and was desirous of marrying her. His father objected to the marriage and exerted himself to get the girl sent away from her native place to Messina. The young man learned where she was, and repeated his offer of marriage. The father then had recourse to the infamous expedient of denouncing the girl to the *Questore* (head of the police), Cavaliere Fortis, not only as a prostitute, but as guilty of the far greater crime, in official eyes, of being diseased. The *Questore*, without even making any of the customary preliminary enquiries as to her character, at once despatched two of his agents to arrest her, and in spite of her tears and protestations, she was dragged to the Syphilitic Hospital for examination. The matron, moved by the girl's distress, and by her innocent appearance and manners, determined to examine her herself, in order—if her assertions should prove true—to spare her the surgical outrage impending over her. Having by this means satisfied herself that the girl was a virgin, she informed the surgeon of the fact ; but he, nevertheless, insisted upon examining her. A struggle ensued, which cannot be described in our columns ; suffice it to say, that the victim of this atrocity was covered with blood. The surgeon declared her to be diseased, and ordered her the usual remedies. So heart-rending, however, were the unceasing cries and protests of the poor girl that they even moved the pity of one of the hospital surgeons, who himself examined her with less brutality, and finding that not only was she free from disease, but that *the assertion of the matron*

was true, he felt it his duty to make the case known. The *Procuratore Generale* was then compelled to interfere, and the fresh outrage of the renewed examination of the unhappy girl took place by his orders, in the presence of two military surgeons. These surgeons pronounced her 'as pure as an infant,' and the *Procuratore Generale*, therefore, arrested the surgeon who had forcibly examined her—the head surgeon of the Syphilitic Hospital of Messina—Dr. Antonio Camniti, who is still in prison (April 9th) awaiting his trial."

Well might an Italian lady, writing to Mrs. Butler, say: "It is difficult to describe the wrongs, the sorrows, the enforced depravity, which *find no counterpart in any modern institution, slavery included.*"

DIJON, FRANCE.—ANOTHER SUICIDE.

The *Shield*, on June 17th, 1876, quotes from the French newspaper, *L'Événement*, the following description of a case that happened at Dijon:

"A young girl of twenty was discovered upon one of the benches on a public promenade, talking to a young man of her own age. Observe that she was *talking* to him, nothing more. A *sous-brigadier* (of police), accompanied by an agent, was passing that way, saw them, and in spite of their protestations, dragged both of them to the Bureau of the police. The Commissioner for that week, seeing nothing in their report to justify this double arrest, set both the young people free. . What do you think this *sous-brigadier* did? His sole apology for his gross error was gravely to take the name and address of the young girl, and on dismissing her, to say, 'If the enquiries we are about to make with regard to you are not satisfactory, you will have to go there' (to the examination house) 'and you will be registered' (as a prostitute). Under the terror of this threat—timid by nature, and half frantic at the idea of possible dishonour—the young girl left the workshop at an early hour next day, and threw herself into the canal. When taken out she was dead." *L'Événement* gives in addition a number of similar cases, one of which also ended in death.

LILLE, FRANCE.

The *Shie'd* for February 15th, 1873 (p. 56) and February 22nd, 1873 (p. 57), records the bringing to light at Lille in

France of a large gang of ruffians who boasted that they had ruined 500 young women by personating the police of the C. D. Act system. Two of them were sentenced to 20 and 8 years' penal servitude respectively for murdering a young German who endeavoured to protect a young woman whom they were assaulting.

LYONS.

The *Estafette de Paris*, of September 8th, 1876, the *Progrès de Lyon*, the *London Standard*, and the *Shield* for September 23rd, 1876, page 293, give an account of a terrible case which took place at Lyons, where an agent of the system had called two policemen and ordered them to arrest a young woman who had just been to the railway station to see the young man to whom she was engaged off by train. The woman refused to go to the examination house, and "threw herself down, and a struggle ensued. At this moment an omnibus came dashing along, and the wheels passed over one of the woman's feet. The crowd cried out to the police to take her to the hospital, but they refused to do so, and dragged her, bleeding and screaming with pain, to the station. On arriving there, a doctor was sent for, and he ordered her to be removed to the hospital to be attended to. She was forthwith put in a prison van; but, on reaching the hospital, she managed to escape, and jumped into the river close by. The police made no attempt to save her, and she was carried away and drowned."

One of the accounts states that she floated for some time, owing to the expansion of her dress, and that the police stood on the bank watching her gradually sink.

TWO SPANISH LADY TOURISTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The *London Daily News* of August 19th, 1876, the *Journal de Genève*, and the *Shield* of August 26th, 1876 (p. 282), and Oct. 7th, 1876 (p. 302), give an account of the case of two respectable Spanish ladies, belonging to Barcelona, who were sisters. They had been recommended by their doctor to spend a short time in Switzerland. Whilst staying at Lausanne, a sum of £15 was stolen from them. On complaining at the police office, the Chief of Police placed them on the register of prostitutes! They were then dragged through the streets of Lausanne, weeping and appealing for justice to

the passers by. At the prison, the two sisters were separated, the youngest, a girl of eighteen, being placed in a cell with eight prostitutes. There they remained from Thursday till Monday, when, in spite of their protesting their innocence with tears of despair, they were ordered to be surgically outraged. The examination proved their statements to be correct, and it was necessary that the police should set them free. This they did by ordering their expulsion from the country, which was effected by taking them *on foot* by a long and dusty road under the burning noonday sun to the frontier at Morges. Through the influence of their well-to-do relations in Spain, the matter was eventually enquired into, and the Chief of Police was punished by suspension from his office for three months, for his "unavoidable" mistake!

OPPRESSION OF OPPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM IN FRANCE.

In 1876 a Paris Municipal Councillor was summoned before the "Tribunal of Correctional Police" for writing an article in *Les Droits de l'Homme*, that the system of State-Regulated Vice in Paris was contrary to the principles at the foundation of the French Constitution.

In the same year M. de Bourbonne, a magistrate at Rheims, was permanently removed from his post by Marshal Macmahon, the President of the French Republic, for making the perfectly correct statement that the system was contrary to the Common Law of France.

In the same year a Parisian editor was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs, for writing against the system in Paris. An aggravation of the offence of this editor was that he had also proposed, from his place as municipal councillor, that the payment of the grant made yearly for the carrying out of the system should be stopped. The Parisian newspapers were forbidden by the police to publish reports of the trial.

The Municipal Council of Paris appointed a Commission to enquire into the whole question of the State Regulation of Vice. Marshal Macmahon suppressed this Commission.

At the beginning of 1877, Mrs. Josephine E. Butler was threatened with legal proceedings, demanding 50,000 francs damages, for injury done by her work to the trade of one of the licensed houses of ill-fame in Paris.

Le Radical of March 28th, 1877, announced that the public meetings in Paris protesting against the system were stopped by the police. A grim commentary on this is the case recorded in the *Shield* of April 28th, 1877 (p. 113), of two young women, aged respectively 23 and 18, who escaped from one of the legalized houses of ill-fame, and rather than give themselves up again, committed suicide by drowning. Another case is reported a fortnight afterwards (p. 133) of a respectable young working woman arrested by the so-called *Police des Mœurs*, who died of shock from the mental and physical horrors of her imprisonment.

In 1878 the *Progrès de Lyon* was forbidden by the Police to oppose the system.

The *Shield* of Nov. 2nd of the same year gives the case of a respectable young woman in Paris, aged 18 years, forcibly carried to the examination house where, in spite of her protestation of innocence, and her tears and sobs, she was surgically outraged. The police afterwards admitted her innocence, but said that it was her own fault because she was lodging in furnished apartments!

The *National League Journal* of Nov., 1881, gives a number of cases of shameful treatment of innocent women under the system in Paris, translated from the pages of the *Geneva Bulletin Continental*.

BERLIN.

The statement is made in the *Shield* for May, 1874 (page 113), that women refusing to be examined under the system at Berlin were beaten with sticks by the police. The same periodical for July 21st, 1877, gives an account of a respectable young lady in Berlin arrested, dragged to the Police Office and surgically outraged. The President of Police writes to her relations to express his "regret" for the mistake. No other redress is made.

INDIA.

The *National League Journal* for Dec. 1st, 1883, quotes from the *Friend of India* facts with regard to large numbers of cases of injustice to women under the system at Barrackpore in Bengal.

CHRISTIANIA, IN NORWAY.

The *Shield* for May 1st, 1875 (p. 123), gives the case of a

respectable young woman, at Christiania, in Norway, who was skating on the ice. Some young ruffians tripped her up and otherwise treated her roughly. A policeman acting under the system came up, and instead of arresting the young roughs, took the young lady off to the examination house in spite of her protests that she was a modest woman!

LATER CASES IN ENGLAND.

The *Shield* for July, 1874 (p. 148), records that Louisa Sweeney, of Dover, went to goal five successive times, 92 days in all, out of ten months, rather than undergo the instrumental outrage perpetrated under the Acts.

At Southampton another case is also recorded of the fifth imprisonment of another woman.

A Southampton correspondent writes in the September, 1874, issue of the *Shield*, as follows:—

“Yesterday morning I happened to be at the Southampton Docks Railway Station, when two of the Metropolitan Police, disguised in plain clothes, were hurrying a poor girl into the Portsmouth train with the most *heartless brutality*; she struggled violently, but the stronger policeman of the two forced her through the station, and as soon as they had got her into a carriage, the other policeman took his seat beside her to accompany her to the hospital at Portsmouth.”

The *National League Journal* quotes from the *Devonport Independent* of August 21st, 1875, the case of a young woman, respectably dressed, crying bitterly, forced through the streets by the C. D. Act police, with a mob of adults and children following her.

The *National League Journal* for September and November, 1876, recounts the case of a respectable young lady, a member of a Congregational Church at Plymouth, who was grossly insulted by a C. D. Act policeman, after taking leave of the young man to whom she was engaged to be married, who was also a member of the same church. The official was summoned for assault, but in the face of the clearest evidence he was discharged by the magistrates amidst “a perfect storm of indignation” on the part of the spectators, during which the Court broke up in confusion.

SUICIDE.

The *National League Journal* for Aug., 1875, records the

case of a respectable widow at Aldershot, who had been summoned to appear with her daughter at the examination house in order that they might both be surgically outraged, and who committed suicide by drowning.

The *Shield*, in its issue of June 9th, 1877 (p. 159), records the fact that a woman, a *ticket-of-leave convict*, went to gaol at Woolwich for fourteen days rather than submit to the surgical outrage enforced under the C. D. Acts.

CHASED INTO THE SEA BY THE C. D. ACT POLICE.

A respectable young servant girl of eighteen was hunted through the streets of Dover on March 15th, 1881, in broad noonday, by the C. D. Act police. To escape them, she jumped into the sea, when the men turned away, and left her to drown. She was rescued by some sailors, however, and then the policemen had the appalling audacity, in order to cover their own shame, to charge her with attempted suicide! Mrs. Alfred S. Dyer at once went down to Dover, and the fugitive girl found a safe refuge in Mrs. Dyer's home near London.*

JAPAN.

Professor Sheldon Amos, in his standard work, "Laws for the Regulation of Vice," shows that a kind of regulation of vice existed in London as far back as the Middle Ages, and Mr. Benjamin Scott, late Chamberlain of the City of London, in his "State Iniquity," shows the pagan origin of licensing and tolerating that which the Bible forbids, and gives the history of regulation of vice in Ancient Greece and Rome. But Christendom did what paganism never dared to do, viz., instituted the compulsory examination of women, in Paris in 1802.†

Japan, for some centuries past, has made the deplorable error of London in pre-Reformation times, and has regulated vice by providing special quarters of towns and villages where houses of ill-fame are legally permitted, but Japan never descended into the depths of infamy of the present European system until 1868, when, according to the evidence of Mr. Berkeley Hill, F.R.C.S., a prominent supporter of

* See *The Christian*, March 31st, 1881; *The Sentinel*, April, 1881; and the *National League Journal* for April and May, 1881.

† Page 8, Mr. Scott's "State Iniquity."

the Acts before the Royal Commission of 1871 on the Contagious Diseases Acts (Question 15,006), "A British naval surgeon superintended the hospital at Yokohama, in order to instruct the Japanese surgeons in the methods of treatment employed in Europe." The weekly surgical outrage commenced on August 12th, 1868. The report states that it was necessary to overcome "the prejudices of the natives" at first. There are now 530 centres in the country where the examination takes place.

HONG KONG.

The *Overland China Mail* of Oct. 25th, 1877, gives an account, which is published in full detail in a later Parliamentary Blue Book (C 3,093 of 1881), of terrible proceedings at Hong Kong under the Contagious Diseases Ordinances there. An inspector, an Englishman, endeavoured to arrest two Chinese women in order to take them to the examination house. To do so, he broke into their house. They fled upstairs, and got on to the roof, and ran along the house-tops. The two women either accidentally fell or purposely threw themselves a depth of 36 feet over the parapet to escape the inspector and the threatened surgical outrage. One was killed instantaneously, her right arm and right thigh being fractured, and her head so shockingly injured that her son was only able to identify her by her clothes. The other poor woman was also terribly injured, but lingered for a few days and then died. It came out in the evidence at the inquest on this case, that the underlings of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance Department were paid sums of money from the Secret Service Fund of the local representatives of British Government, in order to sin with women and secure their being placed on the register of prostitutes.

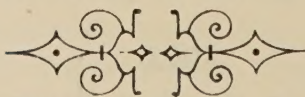
1903.

Josephine E. Butler, at the first International Abolitionist Congress, held at Geneva in 1877, in the course of a most impressive speech, said :—

"You have no right to outrage any woman, were she the most guilty, the most fallen, and the most lost in the world. You have not the right to extinguish in the heart of a prostitute the last spark of womanly feeling, and the hope of

restoration which is possible for the most fallen. But you say, "She is criminal." Certainly ; in which case you have the right to punish her, and to imprison her, as you have with regard to criminal men ; but *nothing*, absolutely nothing, can give you the right to violate the poor body of this criminal. Nothing can give you the right to force her to unveil her innermost physical nature. Torture for criminals is abolished in all civilized countries. We see in the fact of the examination a renewal of the most execrable torture."

This kind of outrage is going on perpetually wherever the system is in force. From time to time in addition there continue to be cases of indescribable treatment of young women of irreproachable character under the system. The most notorious of these in recent years occurred in 1903, when the sister and *fiancée* of M. Forissier, one of the editors of the well-known Paris newspaper, *La Lanterne*, were arrested on the open boulevards by the so-called Morals Police, whilst taking a quiet walk. In spite of their earnest protests (which were mockingly disbelieved by the police), and of their urgent demands that their friends should be communicated with, they were hurried to the examination office, there surgically outraged, and found to be pure. This led to a great agitation, and the appointment by the Government of a Committee to enquire into the whole system of Regulation. This Committee has since reported against the system.



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